

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
Watershed Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Dockweiler Youth Center, Playa del Rey

Summary of Comments on the Bay Restoration Plan

Main overarching and cross-cutting comments

- **Facilitate and enhance coordination, information exchange, and spreading ideas among agencies and stakeholders.**
- **Integrate the goals and objectives of the BRP with that of partner public agencies and show how what the SMBRC and partner public agencies are mutually beneficial.**
- **Implement outreach and education campaign about the work being done in the Bay Restoration Plan and partner organizations. Engage in more types of media and communicate with simple more effective messages.**
- **Conduct more education on the value of the natural resources in the Bay and the Bay watershed to users and the general public, especially intersection of science, cost, benefits to humans, and why the public should care. Make the SMBRC the repository of unbiased, accurate public knowledge base for the watershed, water quality, etc.**
- **Assess impact of emerging issues such as fracking, ocean acidification, outcome of MPAs, and continued monitoring of ground water.**

SECTION 1. WATER QUALITY

RECOMMENDED NEW GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

- Improve water quality through enhanced coordination and implementation among regional partners to maximize regulatory compliance and encourage information exchange.
- Strengthen and improve our knowledge of contaminants that drive impact to ecosystems in the Bay for improved policy development.
- Improve understanding of water quality by conducting more ground water monitoring and hydrology studies.
- Encourage more studies on understanding the impact of natural oil seepage and investigate the use of recovery programs by oil companies.
- Facilitate and promote monitoring effort to understand local acidification impacts and establish baseline information.
- Support and facilitate policies that identify acceptable numerical limits for brine disposal generated by wastewater treatment.

RECOMMENDED NEW AND REVISED MILESTONES:

Revised and new milestones under Goal #1, Improve water quality through treatment or elimination of pollutant discharges regulated under the current federal and state regulatory framework:

Milestone 1.1b. Conduct more comprehensive assessment of TMDL compliance and next steps for L.A. County and watershed cities.

Milestone 1.2a. Move toward action and not just monitoring and expand study area.

Milestone 1.2b. Add benthic macroinvertebrate to Malibu Creek TMDL.

Milestone 1.2b. Give input on implementation plan of Malibu nutrient TMDL

Milestone 1.3c. Participate and support State Water Resources Control Board with desalination policy development and assessment of local desalination proposals.

Milestone 1.5a & b. Shift priority from SUSMP to LID. Prioritize LID concept by encouraging cities to implement LID ordinances and review city code conflicts.

Milestone 1.6. Support Clean Water and Clean Beaches Initiative with outreach and education for county measure.

Milestone 1.7c. Enforce local prohibitions on dry-weather runoff.

New Milestone 1.Xx. Participate and support policy and legislation to change brake pad composition.

Revised and new milestones under Goal #2, Improve water quality through pollution prevention and source control

Milestone 2.2a. Support all coastal cities to enact plastic bag bans, product take back programs, corporate sponsorship, and minimizing packaging.

SECTION 2. NATURAL RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED NEW AND REVISED MILESTONES:

Revised milestones under Goal #4, Create/support policies and programs to protect natural resources:

Milestone 4.1a. Identify constraints to adoption of stream protection ordinances and policies.

Milestone 4.2b. Monitor Fukushima fall-out and debris. Need to identify data gaps and continue monitoring for informing adaptive management of Marine Protected Areas.

Milestone 4.2d. Change “Develop” to “Continue” monitoring for MPAs in the Bay and south coast network.

Milestone 4.3a. Include cumulative impacts such as habitat and pollution inputs in population assessments.

Milestone 4.3b. Promote more outreach to and involvement by fishermen regarding fishery management issues.

Milestone 4.3c. Clarify species of concern vs. endangered species which are already managed. Add lobster fishery management development by name.

Milestone 4.5b. Climate change is the central theme throughout the plan and should be highlighted. Assess the impacts and the need for change of human elements such as flood control practice. Encourage SMBRC participation in local climate change groups and development of state-wide climate change policy. Promote "soft solutions" as opposed to armoring. Promote establishment of buffer zones.

Milestone 4.6. Study the impacts of increasing agricultural use and vineyards in SMM and Malibu watershed.

Milestone 4.7a. Add new commitment to participate in Bight 13 regional survey.

Revised and new milestone under Goal #5, Acquire land for preservation of habitat and ecological services:

Milestone 5.2a. Assess land use changes and new land use patterns emerging that may alter prioritized properties for purchase in Ballona Creek Watershed. Identify and prioritize opportunities for acquisition of land parcels surrounding the Ballona Wetlands.

NEW Milestone 5.2a. Track and create acquisition database of parcels throughout Santa Monica Watershed for ecological functions, project leads, benefits to acquisition, constraints, etc.

Revised and new milestones under Goal #6, Manage Invasive Species:

Milestone 6.2b. Address the impact of feral cats on wildlife. Include projects related to control of marine invasive species.

Milestone 6.4. Develop and encourage watershed cities to adopt a policy against planting ice plants. Stop selling ice plant and other nonnative in local nurseries.

Milestone 6.5a. Clarify locations for riparian invasive species removal and native revegetation programs on 20 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Milestone 6.5b. Clarify locations invasive species removal and revegetation on 20 acres of coastal bluffs and dunes.

NEW Milestone 6.5x. Develop implementation strategy and outreach/education program to address fishing line and hook and cigarette butt debris along Ballona Creek.

NEW Milestone 6.5x. Fund invasive species removal in LAX and El Segundo dunes and plant native erosion control plants.

Revised milestones under Goal #8, Restore coastal bluffs, dunes, and sandy beaches:

Milestone 8.1b. Fund and conduct wildlife biodiversity and abundance survey in LAX El Segundo Dunes and ESB Reserve. Develop conceptual plan for nature center trails and volunteer and user amenities and programs in El Segundo Dunes. Replant bluff west of LAX El Segundo Dunes with native plants to address erosion and remove invasive species.

Milestone 8.2b. Reduce impacts of climate change through reducing beach hardening (ex. Broad Beach). Involve all beach cities, not just DBH in implementing best beach management practices. Map the impacts of the new sediment management plan on managed and non-managed beaches.

Revised milestone under Goal #9, Restore intertidal and subtidal habitats:

Milestone 9.1ab. Use reusable materials for reef creation. Take Rindge Dam sediment or old concrete rubble to create reef and reduce landfill.

SECTION 3. BENEFIT AND VALUES TO HUMANS

RECOMMENDED NEW GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- Foster partnerships and coordinate an interagency committee to implement outreach and education campaign regarding mission and work of SMBRF and partners, and relay how humans benefit from improved ecological health.
- Conduct more public education/outreach to help people see big picture of how their choices affect things and what they should value (naturally). Demonstrate watershed connectivity. Demonstrate the benefits and values of natural habitats to people by showcase good vs. bad habitats.
- Conduct more public events and project in Ballona Creek similar to what have been done in Los Angeles River. Coordinate with County and the cities to create annual event like BC kayak , Earth Day celebration, and/or Adopt-a-Creek program with groups coming together to clean up creek.
- Promote water conservation by developing an outreach and education mechanisms for understanding the intersection of water use, supply, cost, energy, and the environment.
- Increase knowledge on fracking (i.e. public perception, evidence of harm/detriment/benefit).
- Expand the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies. Develop more collaboration with local universities. Look for and raise fund from potential donors.

RECOMMENDED NEW AND REVISED MILESTONES:

Revised and new milestones under Goal #13, Increase public access to beaches and open space:

Milestone 13.1a. Focus land acquisition on coastal access, buffer zones (15-20 acres of proposed Playa Vista Phase 2 site; end of Pacific Ave, near Del Rey Lagoon), and for additional parking.

New Milestone 13.4x. Implement more beach replenishment for areas lacking of beach sand. Increase year-round beach use opportunities.

New Milestone 13.4x. Focus acquisition of land that can provide more beach access and parking.